

# Margaret Sangster's Talks On Home Circle Questions.

## GIRL WHO LACKS GIFT OF TALK IN COMPANY

She Realizes Her Limitations  
and Becomes Constantly  
More Discouraged.

Need Not Despair, For if a Good  
Listener She Is Assured  
of Popularity.



MRS MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

By MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

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AMAZING as the statement may be, considering how glibly most feminine creatures chatter, there are tongue-tied girls. Their conversational endowments are limited and they have no stock of ideas on which to draw when they meet strangers or are away from the sheltering orbit of the home circle. They realize their limitations and grope about to find the reason, only to become constantly more discouraged and less confident of themselves than before.

"How can I conquer my disinclination to talk in company? How can I learn what to say? How can I make myself popular and entertaining?" are questions often and sorrowfully put by the girl who owns herself tongue-tied and deplores the fact. Some girls can talk very well on a large subject that has interested them and with which they are familiar. But in order to do this they must have time, place and opportunity. There must be somebody else to whom the large subject makes an appeal, and who likewise has given it sufficient study to talk about it with intelligence, if not with enthusiasm. A girl of this solid, substantial type is very much in the position of a person who has bills of generous size in her pocketbook, but has no small change. Occasions arise when small change is indispensable to comfort and when one cannot easily get about the world without its convenient aid. In a street car, for instance, a \$5 bill might be useless, when a nickel would carry one miles on her journey.



A Good Listener Is Always Sure Of Appreciation.

### THE SMALL CHANGE OF CONVERSATION.

The small change of conversation enables one to say a light and courteous thing quickly; it implies some talent for banter and repartee, and it is a little dependent on use and wont, on knowledge of the everyday circumstances of those about us, and on sympathy with the moods of those we meet.

The girl who is always herself to be tongue-tied, though she regret it, need not despair. Nobody is socially more disagreeable and more unattractive than a person who talks too much, monopolizing the conversation, taking the floor and firmly holding it and giving no one else a chance to speak. People grow tired of her overfired and aggressive talker. A mere chatterbox is not a girl.

A good listener is always sure of appreciation. If you can but master the art of listening to each person with an air of deep interest, just as if there were no other person in the world, and as if your greatest wish were to understand what the other is trying to tell you, you will have the effect of talking well. All that is really necessary is not to let your attention wander, and at the right moment, in the right places, make some brief rejoinder or affirmation. You need never fear that you will be thought too silent if you listen well and say yes or no at proper intervals. A good listener is never a bore, while a great talker frequently gains that unhappy distinction.

### GIRLS SOMETIMES TONGUE-TIED BECAUSE OF INDIFFERENCE.

Girls are sometimes tongue-tied because of indifference. A bashful manner, up to a certain point, is attractive. But when it has its root in a hampering self-consciousness which makes one awkward and clumsy or surly and defiant, it is a fatal handicap. When springs the overpowering diffidence which lays its weird spell on some girls I cannot tell. Circumstances have little to do with it. Heredity may have much. One finds a girl brought up in a town and accustomed to meeting strangers and kinfolk all her life a victim of this wretched bondage, while a girl of the same age, coming from a country home and a background of solitude, may be entirely free from it.

I remember once in a visit to a mountain land of the South to have seen a beautiful girl ride up a steep hill path and dismount at the door of the house where I was staying. She entered a room which happened to be filled with a throng of people, most of whom were unknown to her, and standing within the doorway, in a clear, sweet voice, without a shade of embarrassment, she gave a message from her mother. Addressing the mistress of the house she said what she had been sent to say, and then, with a graceful and sweeping courtesy took her leave, mounted her horse and rode away. "That," said one of the ladies, "is the prettiest thing I ever saw."

It was pretty because the young girl in question, who had never in her life been thirty miles from home, had not a single vestige of self-consciousness.

### READING GREATLY ENLARGES ONE'S VOCABULARY.

I am often asked by tongue-tied girls what they can do to overcome the difficulty. Perhaps the most fatal thing is to try to talk merely for talk's sake. Never open your mouth unless you really have something to say, is a good rule for the novice. Interrogate yourself and see whether you have any facts or theories on which you may draw. One's vocabulary is greatly enlarged and improved by reading. A girl who seldom reads will naturally possess a limited stock of words, and her language will not always be well chosen. It matters less whether one talks very much than whether one has the exact phrase at hand to fit and clothe her thought.

Some of us are singularly unfamiliar with what is going on about us in this most entertaining and interesting period. No one can have very much to talk about who does not daily read the newspaper. Current events at home and abroad, discoveries, inventions, and the various things that belong to the forward march of civilization, should interest girls. I do not care very much whether a girl is learned or brilliant or clever, so long as she is interesting. It is a woman's duty to have charm. One who has no charm may have every virtue in the world, but will go through life an uninteresting woman.

### SILENT GIRLS BY NO MEANS DEVOID OF CHARM.

Silent girls are by no means devoid of charm. The most popular girl in the world is not always the one who is readiest of speech. The girl who is silent, at the expense of others, who is satirical or ironical, or places others even momentarily in a false position, will never long be welcome in any company. The tongue-tied girl is in no danger of offending in this way. Her silence is her shield.

One thing should be taken to heart by all girls, and that is never to tell anecdotes or stories to a group of listeners unless they know how to do it, and are not in danger of missing the point. The ability to tell a good story at the right moment is as enviable an accomplishment as the ability to play a sonata or sing a ballad. But the blunderer, who tells a story badly, has the mortification of seeing the effort fall flat, and has not always the acuteness to understand what has happened.

A tongue-tied young woman may comfort herself by the reflection that it is not necessary for her always to take the lead. She should leave that to the older women. For herself she has the beauty of youth, the sweetness of the early years, and the happy feeling that life is all before her and that the day will come when, although she is reserved now, she will undoubtedly find plenty to say and many people willing to listen to her. Diffidence, resolutely met, will vanish like the morning dew before the sun.

There is it not far more desirable to say nothing at all than to talk unkindly of one's neighbors, or to criticize the absent? I would rather go to my room and gain a reputation for cleverness by gossiping unkindly about absent friends. Things, not persons, should compose the staple of conversation. If this, and tongue-tied today, may be fluent tomorrow.

## DIVORCE ALMOST LIKE GAME OF STAGE COACH

"Changing Partners" in Ultra-  
Fashionable Set Seldom  
Causes Comment.

Its Worst Feature Is the Cruel  
Blow at the Happiness  
of Childhood.

By MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

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PULPIT and press, and even fiction, are calling attention to the widespread evil of easy divorce. A brilliant English novel, recently published, introduces no less than four misfit pairs, who, however, settle their differences, in one way or another, outside the courts. Judge Grant's deeply interesting work, "The Undercurrent," is a study of American life, which shows in startling colors the tendency to rush to divorce, not merely when it is, like surgery, in extreme cases necessary to save life, but when it is prompted, shall we say, by mere idleness and caprice, re-enforced by a passionate desire for personal enjoyment.

In a certain ultra-fashionable set it seems no longer to excite more than a passing comment when A, growing tired of his wife, and coveting B's, secures a legal separation from her. In an incredibly short space of time the bond that unites the B's is probably broken and another marriage takes place; possibly two marriages take place. The thing is almost like the children's game of stage coach, in which seats are changed with headlong haste. The evident prearrangement is shocking, and awakens disgust.

This changing partners is still regarded in some conservative States of our Union, notably in the South, as disgraceful, unless it be for a cause which in itself dissolves true marriage. In some of the older Northern States and in some States of the newer West almost any flimsy excuse suffices to separate those who have been united by the sanction of the law and the church. Marriage is regarded by the church, or, speaking strictly, by the Catholic Church and the Protestant Episcopal Communion, as a sacrament. For the protection of society and the safeguarding of the home, it was well if this view were more generally taken. It is not very many years since it would hardly have been possible for decent people to air their quarrels and grievances in the public eye without shame and without reserve, as too frequently is now done. Nor is it very long since a slight stigma, a shadow, if not a stain, inhered in the very thought of divorce, so that respectable people shrank from it with horror and preferred to endure almost any suffering rather than have recourse to so heroic a remedy.

### A CRUEL BLOW TO THE HAPPINESS OF CHILDHOOD.

The worst feature of divorce is that it strikes a desperate blow at the integrity of the family. Historically speaking, the family came before the community, before the state, and before the nation. However prosperous a nation may come to be, it cannot rise higher than the highest watermark of its home life, nor can it be stable nor have its prosperity assured if there are rottenness and degeneracy in its homes. Divorce strikes a cruel blow at the happiness of childhood, and inflicts an unmerited reproach upon little ones who were called into the world by fathers and mothers whose self-will no longer permits them to live together in peace.

No dispassionate observer can help an extreme sorrow for children who are thus worse than orphaned in the morning of their days.

Sometimes the public is shown the spectacle of parents at strife, one or the other fighting fiercely for the possession of the offspring of both. Which ever gains the day, the father or the mother, the children have thrust upon them far too early the grief and pain which belongs only to maturity. Sensitive children suffer acutely in such circumstances. They are shamed in their own sight and in the eyes of their world of the schoolroom and the playground. Pending the decision of a stubbornly contested divorce case, children are sometimes tossed about like balls in the hand of a mocking destiny, from their mother's home to another, spending six months with a mother, then leaving her to pass six months with a father, both of whom adore the children, while they hate each other and are at deadly feud. No better lot for the growth of everything inimical to good morals and good manners can be found than this. It stunts the good and forces the evil to rapid growth.

### RICH AND IDLE ARE LARGELY RESPONSIBLE.

A curious obscurity must come over the mental vision of a father who desires to snatch his children from the mother who bore them, and a strange aberration of reason has seized the mother who would teach her children that their father is their worst enemy. No one can deny that causes exist which render legal separation a mournful necessity. Among these, infidelity, desertion, non-support, and drunkenness must, of course, be included, and to these some thoughtful people add incompatibility of temper. In the latter case it is often discovered that the incompatibility is superficial, and not vital, and that it could be overcome by patience and self-control on either side. In too many instances the gist of the matter is that the infidelities of marriage spring from idleness, love of display, and self-indulgence. A hard-working woman, with a more or less inebriated husband and a house full of children, once said to me: "Poor people do not go into the divorce court. They pick up their load and carry it on to the best way they can. Somehow they know it will all come right at the end of the day."

The rich and the idle among women and men in this country are largely the ones who are bringing the stain of easy divorce upon the republic. It is the woman with several homes in which she does not live, haunting Europe instead, and the society man who is an idler from choice, who are most to blame. These people have grand weddings, marry with a great flourish of trumpets, and soon find the conditions of life intolerable. The next step is to establish a residence apart and through legal technicalities obtain a divorce. Next, in hot haste, the wedding bells are rung again. If a child has been born the trail of its misfortune seems nothing to its selfish parents.

We need not be too pessimistic. A house divided against itself is a house built on a quicksand. The ultimate good sense of the nation makes for righteousness. The nation is composed of units. The individual who scorns the right and chooses the wrong is less influential than his neighbor who stands firmly for loyalty, good faith and pure living. The nations as a nation abhors whatever militates against the stability of marriage and the security of home life. Our strength is in the unobtrusive, comfortable and contented home. In city and country the plain home is the bulwark of the nation. Thousands of people who never gave it a name, are living the simple life, which is also the hallowed and beautiful life. Until truth and honor are lost, and graft and corruption take their place, divorce will remain exceptional. Nevertheless, a toning up of public sentiment is needed, and if practicable, some uniformity of legal enactment should be sought for the salvation of the American home and the protection of our good name and fame.



"Poor People Do Not Go Into The Divorce Court They Pick Up Their Load And Carry It."

### IT IS WELL TO TAKE A GLANCE AT THE FUTURE.

A present distress may seem insupportable, but it were well for those who feel that they cannot endure a momentary ill to take a glance at the future. Shall the day ever dawn when the son or daughter in the cradle, or playing on the nursery floor, having arrived at years of adolescence, will ask an explanation that it may be hard to give? Has a mother the right to cast what may be suspicion or shadow on the bright future of her innocent daughter, in that future day when the daughter shall be sought in marriage? Parents can not live for themselves alone. They have given hostages to fortune and treasures to the state when they have called children into being. Could they lift the curtain from the coming years they might stand aghast at the unmerited misery they are heedlessly inflicting on innocent children by their selfish and ill-considered resort to divorce.

## WHITE ROSE CIRCLE FIRST TO ORGANIZE

Eugene Franklin Lampkin, President, and James Baty Evans, Secretary, of Hopeful Band of Sunshine Society Members.

The first Sunshine Circle of the Washington Times' Division of the International Sunshine Society, was duly organized and installed last night by the District organizer, Zed Hetzel Copp, at the home of Charles Lampkin, 459 Ninth street southwest.

It is called the White Rose Circle No. 1. Its president is Eugene Franklin Lampkin, 459 Ninth street southwest, aged ten years. The secretary and treasurer is James Baty Evans, 323 D street southwest, aged ten years. The other charter members are Paul S. Jenkins and Dora G. Jenkins, 490 Ninth street southwest; Ethel M. Lampkin, 459 Ninth street southwest; Mary B. Pruitt and Katherine Pruitt, 448 Ninth street southwest, and Mattie Shannon, 327 E street southwest.

### Everything in Order.

The happy little Sunshiners had already had a meeting before the District organizer, Mr. Copp, and The Times reporter called, and had elected their president and secretary. The secretary had his minute book ready and everything was in readiness to go on with the installation.

White Rose Circle No. 1 appreciates the advantages and splendid meaning of the Sunshine Society, and its members were eager to enter into the society.

Proceedings of the first meeting of the circle are best described in the minutes entered by the secretary, James Baty Evans, in his minute book, of which he is very proud.

"Meeting called to order by Mr. Copp (who is always ex-officio chairman of the circle)."

"The secretary's minutes to read and no report from the treasurer as this was first regular meeting."

"Motion made by James Baty Evans to have White Rose Circle No. 1 of The Washington Times Division of the International Sunshine Society, meet once a week, and be presided over by Eugene Franklin Lampkin. Motion amended by common consent to read 'once a week' Friday at 6:30 p. m. Motion voted on and carried."

### Mr. Copp's Address.

"Mr. Copp then made an address before presenting the charter, which all had signed. He said the object of the association was to bring more sunshine into the world, and that this could be done by doing little things in the way of kindness and cheer to others. We must always have a cheerful mind in doing these little things and Sunshiners must have sunny thoughts. So they would be happier and the people happier. Then the effect would be that they would think the sun was shining even if it was really storming and raining everywhere. So their lives and the lives of other people would be happier and longer. Their motto should be good cheer at home, on the street, everywhere."

"Mr. Copp said the only dues the society had to pay were that each one should do a kind act every week and that, when called upon by the secretary, the dues should be paid to the society by each one telling what little kindness he had done during the week."

### Presents Charter.

"He stated then that he presented the charter of White Rose Circle No. 1 to them on consideration that they would live up to the oath that they would always be kind, considerate, cheerful and helpful to others, and that if they



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## SALVATION BROUGHT BY BABE TO WOMAN

Its Birth Entails Eternal Abiding  
Place Among the Hindu  
Gods.

CALCUTTA, Feb. 18.—A picturesque ceremony marked the advent of the fifth generation of Shrimati Jwaladevi, a Hindu woman of noble family, at Amritsar.

According to Hindu scriptures, the old woman, by the birth of a son to her great-grandson, attained salvation, and on death will go to the region of the gods and dwell among them.

The event was celebrated by a ceremony called Sarga Sapanachanam, which means rising to heaven by means of a ladder. After a bath in the Ganges the woman took her seat on a platform arranged by the family priest, while a thanksgiving service was held.

Then a heap of rice, on which was placed a small ladder of gold, was laid before her, and as the new-born child was placed in her lap she put her right foot on the first rung of the ladder.

The assembled party thereupon cheered her and showered rice and flowers about her, while brass instruments were played and hymns were sung.

Peter Grogan, Credit for All Washington

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### JUST BEFORE THE BATTLE.

"You have been married a year. How do you think I am an angel?" asked eagerly.

"Yes," he answered, indifferently.

—Detroit Tribune.

### THE EVIDENCE.

American: You know, we in this country don't do things by halves.

Foreigner:—H'm! I thought you did, judging from the proceedings of your divorce courts.—New York Press.

### BETWEEN GIRLS.

Mamie—I had a close call the other night.

Alice—My! did you both sit on the same chair.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

### IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

"The Annotated Typewriters are going on a strike."

"What's the trouble?"

"The 'em' has been dictated to."—New York.